

**GLOBALLY NETWORKED CUSTOMS
UTILITY BLOCK GUIDELINE FOR THE EXCHANGE OF REGULATORY
DATA ON ELECTRONIC WASTE
BETWEEN
EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY AND EXPORTING COUNTRIES¹**

¹ At this point, the exporting countries are Malaysia and Pakistan.

I. INTRODUCTION

I.1. Context and purpose of this document

There is increased interest in managing the environmental aspect of international trade through more sustainable global supply chains. The 85th Session of the Policy Commission (PC), held in December 2021, highlighted the importance of the environmental aspect, the circular economy (CE) and reverse supply chains in connection with a review of the focus areas of the WCO Strategic Plan 2022-2025. Taking into account the PC's decision, the Permanent Technical Committee (PTC) engaged further to exchange views and provide guidance on the opportunity to take action in a number of related areas such as: (i) business process mapping of waste imports to harmonize the most relevant processes in the context of CBM and Single Window implementation; (ii) the possible development of a Data Model information package and GNC Utility Blocks for data exchanges related to the waste trade; (iii) further consideration of the environmental compliance aspects of the AEO Programme as part of the SAFE review cycle; and (iv) the exploration of digital infrastructures for CE governance in the context of future updates of the Study Report on Disruptive Technologies.

The 86th Session of the Policy Commission in June 2022 identified Green Customs as a focus area of the WCO Strategic Plan 2022-2025, and endorsed the Implementation Plan 2022-2023, which includes the following activities:

- Piloting with volunteer Members the business process mapping of waste imports in order to harmonize the most relevant processes in the context of Coordinated Border Management (CBM) and the Single Window;
- Developing specific GNC Utility Blocks with volunteer Members for C2C data exchange related to the waste trade.

Similar discussions took place at the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Basel Convention where Parties shared their experiences in developing and implementing electronic systems for exchanging information on or controlling movements of goods and wastes. The COP also considered the requirements involved in making the system part of a more general system such as a Single Window environment so as to enhance information-sharing between the environmental authorities and other regulatory agencies, including Customs.

This document provides a draft working version of a Globally Networked Customs (GNC) Utility Block (UB) for the exchange of regulatory data between the National Environment Agencies (NEA) of the exporting countries and importing countries in the EAC region to manage the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) procedure. It is built on the existing UB Structure endorsed by the WCO. The context of this UB is based on current developments relating to regional integration within the EAC, including the Single Customs Territory (SCT). This UB may also be used in the context of bilateral exchanges between an EAC Partner State and other trading blocs, such as COMESA, or with individual Partner States. Participating Partner States are referred to as 'partners'.

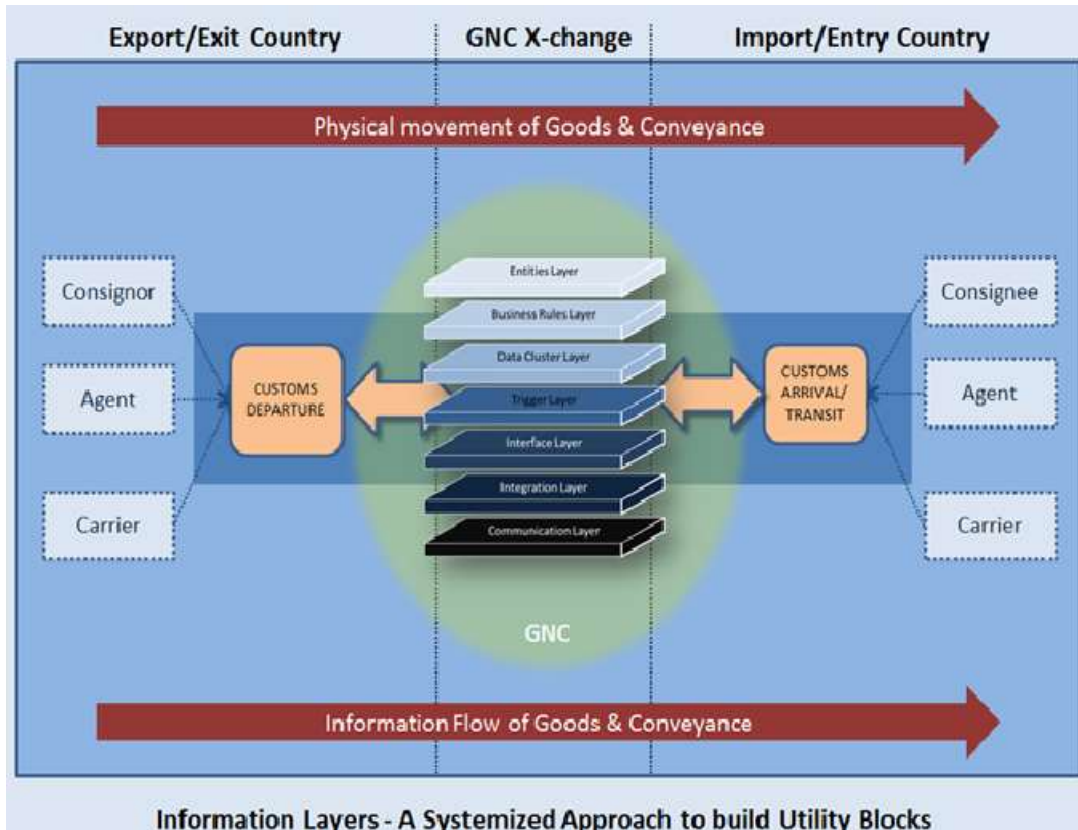


Figure 1 - Information Layers - a systematic approach to build a GNC Utility Block

I.2. Utility Block Executive Summary

<p>PURPOSE</p>	<p>The purpose of the East Africa Community (EAC) E-Waste Information Exchange (EIE) Utility Block is to establish a robust and interconnected methodology for member countries within the East Africa region to address the growing challenges of electronic waste (e-waste). This framework, designed in collaboration with the World Customs Organization (WCO), aims to promote responsible e-waste trade management, foster Customs regional cooperation, and encourage sustainable development while mitigating the negative environmental and health impacts of electronic waste.</p>
<p>ADVANTAGE TO GOVERNMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardization of PIC processes across Basel Convention Parties as the BCS adopts the model • Allows collection of information to facilitate targeting of high-risk e-waste trade • Streamlined process for the exchange of data allowing the reuse of the same system for all other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) beyond the Basel Convention • Automation and digitalization of prior informed consent to lay the basis for informed decision-making • Facilitate legitimate e-waste trade under the Basel Convention • A means towards collaborative efforts in promoting compliance with legislation (national, regional and international legislation) • Reduces the risk of concealment or misdeclaration • Reduces cases of information duplication and overlap • Follows the procedure required by the Basel Convention, and is therefore an asset in the implementation of the Basel Convention in East African countries • Improves accountability and traceability of e-waste trade between exporting and importing countries through confirmation of arrival and disposal in the importing country
<p>ADVANTAGE TO BUSINESS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guarantees smooth approval processes for known traders to export and import legal e-waste between the countries concerned

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes transparency of regulatory processes by the private sector therefore increasing predictability in supply chain planning for e-waste trade • Improved business transactions for businesses participating in sustainable supply chains • Promotion of lower risk score for known traders within legitimate e-waste trade • Promotion of quicker release time for legitimate e-waste traders • Reduction of time taken at control points of export and import
<p>LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND COMPLIANCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under Article 13 of the Basel Convention, parties are required to transmit information (report) annually on matters relating to the management of e-waste (including imports, exports, illegal trafficking etc.). The Convention is further supported by national laws that further describe environmental protection. • The EAC Customs Management Act (EACCOMA) is the main regional legal instrument for Customs management in the EAC. In the context of exchange of Customs information, the Act enables Customs administrations to provide each other with information that facilitates the clearance of goods and prevention, investigation and suppression of offences. • Furthermore, in each Partner State, the protection of personal data is covered by different pieces of domestic legislation covering the handling of personal information, confidentiality, disposal and other related matters.
<p>ENTITIES LAYER</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partner countries: Signatory to the Basel Convention on the control of trans-boundary movement and disposal of hazardous waste • Waste Generator/Exporter • Competent Authority of Export Country • Competent Authority of Import Country • Clearing agents in exporting country • Clearing agent in importing country

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Customs in exporting country• Customs in importing country• Importer/Disposer• Competent Authority of Transit Country
BUSINESS RULES LAYER	<p>The following business rules apply to each country with respect to participation in the exchange of information.</p> <p><u>General</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishment of contact points between partner countries• Each Customs administration has implemented an automated Customs system and risk management system• Traders shall follow the SAD500 document while preparing export/import/transit declarations• Data should follow the minimum data validation criteria described in the EAC data cluster in the WCO Data Model mapping spreadsheet (to be annexed to the UB)• Data will be transmitted using the PUSH method• The recipient of the electronic message will validate the message and respond to acknowledge it• Protocols granting legal sanction for data exchange have been signed in accordance with appropriate multilateral agreements including the Basel Convention <p><u>Prior Informed Consent</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upon the request of the exporter/waste generator, the competent authority at the exporting country will send a notification on the transboundary movement of waste to the competent authority of import country. The competent authority at the importing country should provide acknowledgement of the receipt of the notification.• After completing the assessment of the acceptability of proposed waste movement as outlined in the notification, the competent authority at the importing country sends consent indicator by including

reference to the corresponding notification. In parallel, the notification and the consent indicator are made accessible by relevant government agencies, including Customs, through Single Window.

- The competent authority of export country produces movement document based on the initial notification document and the consent indicator, distribute the document to the exporter and make the document accessible by the relevant government agencies, including Customs, through Single Window.

Pre-departure

- On export/in the exit country the trader shall generate a WCO-compliant Unique Consignment Reference (UCR) when filing the export/transit declaration
- Upon receipt and registration of the export/transit declaration, the export/exit country/transit country transmits
- an acknowledgment message to the trader including the valid UCR
- an export/transit declaration message including the UCR to the import/entry country or transit country

Pre-arrival

- When sharing data with the trader in the import/entry country or transit country, the trader in the export/exit country shall include the UCR
- the trader in the import/entry country shall file an import/transit declaration based on the UCR **prior to the arrival of goods** at the border (recommended practice)
- the import/entry country and transit country checks whether the export/transit message has been received and updates the status of cross-border transmission of export/transit data
- Risk assessment will be carried out in the import/entry country or transit country prior to the processing of the declaration based on the available information
- the import/entry country or transit country shall process declarations prior to the arrival of goods at the border (recommended practice)

On arrival

- Upon release of the goods the import/entry country or transit country shall transmit the “positive” Arrival Confirmation message to the export/exit country and transit country

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the export/transit declaration is not received from the export/exit country or transit country, the import/entry country or transit country will generate a “negative” arrival confirmation message • If the export/transit declaration is received after the release of the goods in the import/entry country or transit country, the import/entry country or transit country will generate a “delayed” Arrival Confirmation Message • If no import/transit declarations are filed against an export/transit declaration received from the export/exit country or transit country, within 30 days of the receipt of such a message then the import/entry country or transit country will generate a “negative” arrival confirmation message <p><u>Post arrival</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business rules for matching the export declaration with the import/transit declaration • Structure of the discrepancy report and control results message • Frequency of transmission of the control results message • Business rules for the use of the arrival confirmation message and control result message in (i) transit procedures, (ii) revenue reconciliation, and (iii) enforcement cooperation
<p>DATA CLUSTER LAYER</p>	<p><u>Customs & Environment Agency in exporting country: information requirements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approved list of actors (name, address, contact details): exporters, collectors, buyers, transporters and consignees • Certificate of registration number • Business licence number & expiry date • Permit number for specific waste or activity, e.g. collection • Type of waste • Purpose of transporting waste, e.g. disposal; recovery • Source of waste, e.g. collection of old computers from a company • Contract between exporter and importer: validity period

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bank guarantee information • Insurance information • Shipping schedule, e.g. mode of transport, route • Transit country consent(s) • Export permit (number, date etc.) Consent indicator provided by competent authority of import country <p><u>Customs & Environment Agency in importing country: information requirements:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of waste with consent for export • Quantity of waste with consent for export • Status/ capacity of facility • Import permit (number, date etc.) • Notification document as outlined by the Basel Convention • Movement document as outlined by the Basel Convention
<p>TRIGGER LAYER</p>	<p>The UB features the following sequences for choreographing interactions between the partners. Events which initiate electronic data flow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIC Notification: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Competent authority of export country dispatches TBMW Notification to the competent authority of import country upon receiving application for TBMV by exporter. ○ Competent authority of import country responds to the TBMW Notification with consent indicator. • Pre-departure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The trader generates the UCR and lodges the export/transit declaration in the export/exit country ○ Competent authority of export country send Movement document to the competent authority of import country and Customs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-arrival: The export/exit or transit country transmits the export/transit message to the transit country or import/entry country • the trader in country of import/transit lodges the import/transit declaration • Customs processes the import/transit declaration • On arrival: the import/entry country or transit country transmits an arrival confirmation message • Post arrival: the import/entry country will transmit the text of control results including results of data matching, inspection and risk assessment to export/exit country 																								
<p>INTERFACE LAYER</p>	<p><u>System Interface:</u> Exchange protocol: webservice (RESTFUL Protocol/SOAP)</p> <p>Service Pattern: https://tbn-api.(domain.org)/(Service-operation- name)</p> <p><u>Service operation name</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="520 922 1932 1279"> <thead> <tr> <th>Service operation name</th> <th>Provider</th> <th>Consumer</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="3">PIC Process</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Send TBMW Notification</td> <td>importing country</td> <td>exporting country</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Send Consent Indicator</td> <td>exporting country</td> <td>importing country</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Send Movement Document</td> <td>importing country</td> <td>exporting country</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Clearance Process</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Send Export Declaration</td> <td>importing country</td> <td>exporting country</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Send Import Confirmation</td> <td>exporting country</td> <td>importing country</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><u>Data exchange protocol</u> Message format: JSON for RESTFUL and XML for SOAP</p>	Service operation name	Provider	Consumer	PIC Process			Send TBMW Notification	importing country	exporting country	Send Consent Indicator	exporting country	importing country	Send Movement Document	importing country	exporting country	Clearance Process			Send Export Declaration	importing country	exporting country	Send Import Confirmation	exporting country	importing country
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INTEGRATION LAYER	<p><u>Topology architecture:</u></p> <p>Each administration who wants to connect to the Ecosystem needs to develop an interface/module which enables the administration to act as a service client as well as service provider of data/information from a server based on integration specification document as an annex</p>
COMMUNICATION LAYER	<p>Network protocol: https or VPN</p> <p>Network security: Data Encryption (consultation with network team required)</p> <p>Network service level: Downtime/Maintenance of system during off peak hours (subject to agreement)</p>

Utility Block architecture

